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Upper Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

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**P = Patrick; A = Anna; I = Isabelle**

**P:** OK, Anna, I believe you’ve prepared a brief summary of the Howard Park project … [Anna: Yup]. Would you just like to take us through the main points?

**A:** Yes, sure. Well, the Howard Park project began two years ago. We agreed to lend the local authority £750,000 to redevelop a green space in the Howard’s Hill area of the city. The aim was to give the local residents a nicer park, first of all, but also some new recreation facilities: a mini-golf course, two tennis courts, a small café and a new children’s play area. The play area was in terrible condition … full of rubbish … it was actually quite dangerous. So here we are two years on: what progress have they made? Well, they’ve done a good job of cleaning the area up: they’ve planted trees and laid new grass, so it looks much, much better. They’ve also built the café and the children’s play area. However, they’ve also done some things that weren’t part of the original plan. For example, they’ve built a fountain near the café and six months ago they also bought a sculpture, at a cost of £80,000 to place near the fountain. Now they’ve run out of money and are asking for a new loan of £250,000 to complete the tennis courts and mini-golf course. What do you think?

**I:** If you ask me, that’s completely wrong. They’ve been spending money on things they had no right to. I don’t think we should give them another penny.

**P:** Well hang on a minute. Let’s not be too hasty. I agree that they should have told us about these other changes. But we need to consider if they are in the spirit of the original aims of the project …

**A:** That really depends on the opinion of the local residents. The way I see it, it’s probably a good thing – if residents like it and it means they’ll use the park more.

**I:** Well, I just find it arrogant of them, actually …

**P:** OK … so what ought we to do? Personally, I don’t think we should lend them any more until we know what local people think of the work they’ve done already.

**A:** Yes, I’d go along with that. We need to ask them to conduct a survey of local opinion and then show us the results.

**P:** Exactly. Are we all agreed on that then?

**I:** Yes, I guess so … yes, that seems fair to me.

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